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Lubberts wants Thibert ousted

Councillor won't
support EDTC
budget

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No injuries in rollover



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

On Friday morning, Niagara Regional Police, the Fort Erie Fire Department and Niagara Emergency Medical Services were called to a vehicle rollover on Helena Street. Three female passengers walked away without injuries and the incident is still under investigation by police.

Former workers protest

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Ex-Vertis Communications employees in Stevensville braved the cold weather on Friday to protest the lack of severance pay from the company.

The Communications, Energy Paperworks Union Local 425-G, says the U.S. based company is refusing to pay out termination and severance, which is required under Canadian law.

Dan Wickson, president of Communications, Energy and Paperworks Union of Canada Local 425-G, which represents Vertis employees and has been at the company for 27 years said the company is denying them their severance packages because the company went bankrupt.

"These employees were screwed by the company by not paying them what they were entitled to. The least they could have done was give the employees some dignity," said MPF Kim Craitor.

See Page 3

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Lubberts won't support EDTC budget unless Thibert resigns

Thibert says
'bring it on'

Kris Dubé
Editor

A local councillor is calling for the resignation of the Town's economic development manager, Jim Thibert, over coarse language and disparaging remarks he made during a budget presentation Jan. 15.

Thibert said "bring it on" after Coun. Don Lubberts talked publicly about turning him over on concerns he hasn't been a good enough "ambassador."

Lubberts says when the

Economic Development and Tourism Corp's budget comes up for approval Monday, he won't support it if Thibert is still in charge of the town's arms-length economic development agency.

"I am not going to approve giving taxpayers' money to the EDTC if Jim Thibert is the general manager," he said in a phone interview Wednesday.

He will also recommend to the EDTC's board removing Thibert from his position.

Lubberts' frustration stems from last Tuesday's EDTC budget presentation at town hall, where Thibert publicly used what Lubberts

considered coarse language and colorful metaphors involving prostitution and urination.

Lubberts said he found the language offensive, but was more concerned with Thibert's comments about the local workforce—that available jobs available go unfilled because many residents are unqualified and uneducated.

Potential investors hear or read those comments would hesitate about coming to Fort Erie, Lubberts said.

The councillor for Crystal Beach says Thibert should be an "ambassador to the community."

"He did exactly the opposite of what he should be

doing," said Lubberts. "We cannot have that happening in this town."

In his budget presentation, Thibert also claimed that there are a handful of local companies that have positions to fill, but are unable to because of a lack of qualified individuals, but he wouldn't name those companies, citing confidentiality.

The councillor also brought up a comment Thibert made while making a presentation to council in the previous term, when he called former councillor and unsuccessful 2010 mayoral candidate Ann-Marie Noyes "delusional."

"This is an ongoing thing with Jim Thibert," said Lubberts.

The councillor said requesting Thibert's resignation is not too extreme and receiving an apology would not change his position.

"If he apologizes next week, six months from now... Jim is going to be Jim again," said Lubberts.

When reached for comment, Thibert scoffed at the idea of him being removed from his post.

Council cannot vote to terminate him and a decision would need to be handed down from the EDTC's board.

"It's not going to happen, I'm not going to waste two seconds on this," said Thibert.

He said it was ironic on the same day he found out he was in Lubberts' crosshairs, he was been working on finding a solution for recently laid-off workers at Vertis

Communications in Stevensville to receive their vacation and severance pay, after the local plant was shut down last week. Since then, there have been questions about the terminated employees and if they will receive any compensation.

"While they're stabbing me in the back, I'm working with employees at Vertis, trying to get what's due to them."

Thibert also said that on Wednesday, his work day began at 5:30 a.m., continuing the fight for the Fort Erie Racetrack.

Last year, Lubberts along with councillors Bob Steckley, John Hill and Paul Collard voted in favour of terminating the municipality's director of legal services, Heather Salter.

The decision was made in closed session, so the severance package that was given to her is not known by the public.

He used that situation as an example, saying that if this matter gets to the point where it heads to a courtroom, he will be prepared.

"If they thought it cost a lot of money to get rid of the town's lawyer for no reason, then bring it on," said Thibert.

"Bring it on," he repeated.

Mayor Doug Martin only learned of Lubberts' call for Thibert's resignation, but said it's something he would expect from Lubberts.

"Nothing Coun. Lubberts does surprises me," said Martin.

The mayor also said he finds it interesting that during or after Thibert's presentation to council last week, there was no mention of the comments he made.

"I find it peculiar that what Coun. Lubberts is referring to is something nobody had any objection to during the presentation," said Martin.

He also feels that this idea may have been given to Lubberts from someone outside of council.

"I think certain individuals have gotten to Coun. Lubberts."



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Ex-employees want answers about severance

From Page 1

In late 2012, Vertis had most of its assets acquired by Quad Graphics, a company based out of the U.S.

Employees knew of the acquisition, but none of them foresaw the plant being closed for good. It came as a total shock to the employees on the morning of Jan. 16, and in 48 hours the plant was closed.

Fort Erie mayor Doug Martin spent about an hour at Vertis Friday morning to offer some support to the employees.

"They feel that they were misled by the company," said Martin.

As far as severance pay goes, Wickson said that they told them their laws don't apply in Canada.

"If they paid us severance and termination pay we wouldn't be standing out here today. We just want what is ours," he said.

Vertis employed 112 unionized staff as well as salaried staff. In total, about 130 people were out of a job.

"All we got was our vacation pay and our last pay cheque. The severance and termination pay works out to \$2.3 million for all the employees," he said.

"The executives that ran the plant into the ground received \$4.9 million to walk away," said Wickson.

"I question the legality behind that. There are laws in place and employers have a responsibility to employees to pay them a severance upon closing down," said Martin.

The former employees of Vertis haven't received any communication from the people in the U.S., and neither has Martin.

"Right now they're going through the courts in the States about their bankruptcy. They play differently in the States," said Wickson.

Products that were typically made at the Stevensville plant, will now be produced in the U.S. and imported back into Canada.

The closure of the Stevensville plant is another big blow for the Fort Erie area. With more than 100 people out of work now, former employees are questioning what to do. Many of them have been with the company so long, it's all they really know.

Though Martin said the area will no doubt feel the affects of this closer, the town will remain focused on finding a tenant for that building and getting it

filled.

"Obviously, we want another company in that building to provide jobs," he said.

Vertis was faced with tough economic times following the struggles of the newspaper industry.

"It's a shame to see it go. It was a good paying job and employed a lot of really good local people. The newspaper industry is facing a challenging time, but despite the challenges, we didn't anticipate Vertis closing," said Martin.

"We will be here until we get what we deserve," Jeff Ott, a former employee of the plant said.

"We will be out here this week, next week and the week after. As long as it takes until we get our rightful money and what they owe us."

Ott, an employee at the Stevensville printing plant on Eagle St., was one of about 100 people laid off Wednesday. About 75 people protested out front the main gates for the duration of the day Friday in what they are calling an information protest.

—with files from QMI Agency



Ex-employees from Vertis Communications gathered outside the plant where they spent many years. They are protesting against what they believe is an illegal hold on their severance packages. From left, Dan Wickson, Wayne Gates, president of the local CAW and Garry Stoughton, vice president of the Local 245-G.

Public Notice

Public Meeting for the
Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools
Accommodation Review
will be held at:

RIDGEWAY-CRYSTAL BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
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Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Schools involved in the review are:
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By Robin Weiss, M.D. Sc.
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Many tinnitus sufferers have had a way to live with the constant ringing in their ears; others are not so fortunate as the buzzing sound in their ears is so pronounced that it is difficult to concentrate during the day or sleep at night. In either case, tinnitus sufferers can benefit from an evaluation from an audiologist. On the basis of that exam, either a hearing instrument or a masking device may be recommended. While the former makes sound so clear that the buzzing noise may recede, the latter diverts out the buzzing sound with a sound of a specific frequency. The important point to remember is that this is a common problem that is not "all in your head."

Tinnitus isn't a condition itself—it's a symptom of an underlying condition, such as age-related hearing loss, an injury or a circulatory system disorder. Although it can worsen with age, for many people, tinnitus can improve with treatment. At NIAGARA BALANCE & HEARING CLINICS 905-871-4242, we believe it's important that our patients understand about hearing, hearing devices, and options that are available in today's market. Our office is located at 666 Garrison Rd., Unit 12, and we are open 10-6, 10am-6pm. Most major insurance accepted. Please visit our website at www.hearingaidclinics.com

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As the information age expands its viewing audience, diners educate themselves on where to eat before they leave their homes and source out their next dining destination through web-sites similar to www.oldbankbistro.com. Reviewing menus before actually sitting down in a restaurant with an actual menu in hand, is the new trend and health minded individuals are growing in numbers, no matter their age group. Hopefully more potential people dining out will take full advantage of the benefits of being more health conscious by eating right, while exploring new dining destinations resulting in a longer, healthier life.



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Councillors weigh in on Lubberts' plan for Monday night

Steckley and Collard say a public apology would satisfy concerns

Kris Dubé
Editor

It appears the composition of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation (EDTC) is in the hands of council.

After Coun. Don Lubberts said he will not support the EDTC's budget when it comes up for consideration this Monday, unless its general manager Jim Thibert has resigned, the pressing question is whether or not he will be supported by the majority of council.

Town clerk Karen Kett confirmed on Thursday that a closed session meeting had been scheduled for Monday, relating to the 2013 EDTC budget presentation.

On Friday afternoon, it was announced the closed meeting had been cancelled.

Ward 3 Coun. Bob Steckley said he does have an issue with some of the things said by Thibert during his presentation on Jan. 15, but doesn't feel asking for his resignation is the right direction to take at the moment.

"I don't believe at this point, that's what I'm looking for," said Steckley.

The Ward 3 Coun. says that since last week, he has received numerous calls and emails from local residents who are troubled by Thibert saying that employment opportunities go unfilled because they aren't suited for individuals that could be considered undereducated.

"Unfortunately, that has touched a nerve with a lot of people in Fort Erie," said Steckley.

The second-term councillor says that he knows many people who do have a college or university

education, that are struggling to land a career in Greater Fort Erie.

"They're struggling to find work and from that comment, I'm getting backlash from the public," he said.

Although Steckley does feel Thibert made comments that could be considered inappropriate, he says there is too much at stake. The Fort Erie Racetrack, the Canadian Motor Speedway and other developments that Thibert is so closely connected to are far too important in his opinion.

"We need the EDTC to help us and back us on those issues," said Steckley.

"Changing the general manager may not be the right course."

Instead, Steckley hopes Thibert can deliver a brief apology to clear the air.

"Something simple like that would satisfy at least 90 per cent of the people I've talked to."

Council does not have the authority to remove Thibert from his job. Such a decision can only be handed down by the EDTC's board.

Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard also feels that Thibert used "inappropriate" language when he delivered his EDTC budget presentation last week, saying that his description of some unemployed

people in town was offensive.

"That's what I find to be the most disturbing, that our economic development manager would take that stance," said Collard.

The Stevensville councillor said he is unsure if trying to remove Thibert from his position is the right thing to do, but leans toward the opinion that it isn't.

"I would have to say at this point, I don't think so."

Collard is also frustrated by suggestions he has heard that former councillor and unsuccessful mayoral candidate Anne-Marie Noyes is involved, saying he hasn't spoken to her since the last Hospital Services Advisory Committee meeting.

"That's not the case," he said.

He also said that Thibert bringing up council's decision to terminate director of legal services Heather Sailer in a previous QMI Agency story is inappropriate, because it has nothing to do with this matter.

"For him to say she was let go for no reason... we don't need that right now. That's not what this is about," said Collard.

A public apology is something Collard said he could live with.

He concluded by saying

that council has a right to "expect a certain behaviour" in the chambers and that he doesn't know what will happen on Monday night.

"What will come out of it, I don't know," said Collard.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular does not think calling for Thibert's resignation by voting against the EDTC's budget is something council should be considering.

"I personally cannot support this," said Shular.

"To go ahead with what Coun. Lubberts is proposing is dangerous," added the councillor, who is in his third term.

On Jan. 30, Thibert along with mayor Doug Martin and chamber of commerce president Dean Demizio will deliver their comments at a breakfast event on the state of Fort Erie. Shular expects Thibert will elaborate further on what he said.

"I think Mr. Thibert will take that opportunity to clarify his remarks," said Shular.

He continued by saying that there is a history of some members of council and Thibert not seeing eye to eye and feels this latest issue is an example of it coming into play.

"I think this might be a bit of a spill over which we need to separate."

In conclusion, Shular said Thibert has his own style of presenting information and council should let him continue.

"I don't find any fault with it," said Shular.

Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero said it is Lubberts' right to base decisions pertaining to the budget on whatever criteria he feels appropriate, but will not be supporting his cause.

"I'll be discussing the EDTC budget related to the budget, not in the manner in which it was presented."

That's an entirely different discussion," said Passero.

Mayor Doug Martin has also said he does not support the action Lubberts

plans to take.

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill, who is the chair of corporate services, said that it was not his sole responsibility to rule Thibert out of order and that other members of council could have done so.

Hill said that he also received feedback from the public about Thibert's comments and as a council representative on the EDTC board, phoned him on Monday to tell him that some people were unhappy with what he said in a public forum.

"I had an obligation to do that as an EDTC board member, to make him aware that some residents took exception to some of the comments he made," said Hill.

The Ridgeway-Thunder Bay councillor would not divulge what position he may take on this issue and said he will wait until the conversation unfolds on Monday.

"We'll see how the debate goes forward," said Hill.

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our editorial

Bullying a trend that needs to be addressed

The numbers regarding bullying are staggering. According to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canada has the ninth highest rate of bullying in the 13-year-old category on a scale of 35 countries.

Almost 50 per cent of Canadian parents report to having a child that is victimized by bullies. The rate of discrimination experienced among students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer or questioning is three times higher than bullying involving heterosexual youth.

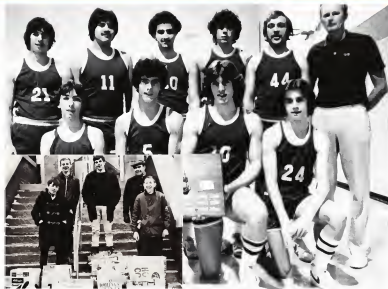
Social media has played a major roll in bullying. Many kids cannot simply go home from school and escape it, instead it follows them into their homes via social media. While social media helps spread the hate, it's also a good venue for people to speak out about the issues and raise awareness.

The world has seen a lot of suicide cases recently involving bullied youth, much of which was unheard of 10 years ago. The word is spreading quickly regarding these teens who spend their school years struggling, and people are slowly climbing on board to put a stop to it.

Schools in the area have implemented anti-bullying strategies, however, bullying still occurs in the walls of our schools as well as online. Our world is moving in a more 'accepting' direction in terms of peoples rights, however, despite this, there's a plague of bullying going on against our youth.

Change starts with one individual. One person who has the courage to speak out. Strength comes in numbers, so lets all get on board to put a stop to this terrible trend.

—Melissa Mangelsen



Do You Remember?

As no one called in about the community minded young people posing in front of the 100F hall in Ridgeway, they shall remain anonymous and tucked away in the "Unidentified People" binder.

Our volunteer research-

ers did however, find out that this hall, built in the 1920s, became a Roman Catholic church in 1987. It was later destroyed by fire in 1989.

This week's photo shows a winning basketball team posing with a memorial plaque. Written

on the back are the following names: Tony Sacheli, Herb McGirr, Chris O'Connor and Bob Eaton. If you can put names to faces or tell us anything more about this photo, please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.on.ca.

This is not the time to call for Thibert's resignation



Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebook

Sometimes I wish I could just leave this stuff alone and instead write about the National Hockey League or why it's important to donate to local charities.

But Coun. Don Lubberts' plan to vote against the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation's budget has me chomping at the bit.

First off, I understand where Lubberts is coming

from and can see why some people might have been offended by the EDTC general manager's comments about the local workforce.

But calling for his resignation, at such a crucial time in Fort Erie when the Racetrack is so close to striking a deal with the Ontario government, for transition funding to keep the 116-year-old oval in operation and hundreds of people employed, is actually what should be considered out of line.

On Friday morning, I received a phone call from Ted Mansell, the executive vice-president of the union that represents employees at the Fort Erie Racetrack and getting straight to the point, he is not impressed.

As many of our readers already know, Jim Thibert

is the chief executive officer of the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium, the group that has been operating the Racetrack for the last three seasons and has been fighting to keep it open in 2013.

As a deal could be struck "any day now," according to Mansell, he said right now is not the time to call for Thibert's head.

"You could not send a worse message to the provincial funders," said Mansell.

"This is probably the most sensitive negotiations this Racetrack will ever be a part of, in terms of surviving into the future," he added.

I spoke to every member of council about this matter and I'm not 100 per cent sure how things will unfold

on Monday, but hopefully personal opinions of Thibert will be set aside and if the EDTC's budget is not approved based on the language Thibert used in his presentation last week, this town will be turned upside down and local political junkies are going to go absolutely berserk.

Councillor Steckley said he was offended by some of the comments, but also said there is too much at stake that Thibert is involved in. He also said a public apology is something he could live with and so did Paul Collard.

The mayor, along with councillors Shular and Passero are nowhere near being able to support Lubberts' cause.

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill was the only member of

council who is most obviously on the fence about this matter, as he didn't say he will or won't be voting against the budget and instead said he will wait to see how things unfold during the debate on Monday.

I don't pretend to be someone who has any influence over members of council because they have the power to make all the decisions.

I simply have the opportunity every week to share my opinions on matters like this.

Some people agree with me and some people call me an idiot. Either way, I get out of bed the next day and carry on with my life.

But I will offer some advice to our council about this and say that if the EDTC's budget is not

approved for this reason and that if it is decided that the next project of council is to get rid of Jim Thibert, this town will be in an absolute uproar and many projects like the Canadian Motor Speedway, or the future of the Racetrack will be put in jeopardy.

Put the personal differences aside and realize the best way to create jobs in town isn't getting rid of the person who leads that charge.

Thibert can be rather blunt and colourful during public appearances but it's my estimation that his 30 years as an economist is proof that he knows what he is doing and knows what he's talking about.

kris.dube@sunmedia.ca

opinion page

Allowing a 'free vote' would wreak havoc on party discipline

Dear Editor,

It is interesting that the leader of the opposition and his party have dedicated themselves to bringing Ontario to "right to work" legislation.

This is the legislation that would permit members to decline paying dues to their union, despite the fact that they would continue to receive the benefits of belonging to the organization.

It is also known as "right to work for less" legislation.

Mr. Hudak and his colleagues emphatically deny that this is about weakening unions or forcing downward pressure on wages and benefits.

Some consider this to be an attack on the middle class, which grew and thrived after the Second World War as a result of a strong union movement and which is the foundation of any strong economy.

But those supporting right to work legislation insist that workers should have the right to choose whether to pay union dues

and it is undemocratic for them to be treated otherwise.

This suggests that, in a similar vein, Mr. Hudak and his colleagues should support the right of all MPPs to vote their conscience on every matter that comes before the legislature for a vote.

This is known as the "free vote" and is widely frowned upon by political parties. Allowing members to vote as they wish on each issue before them would wreak havoc with party discipline and the ability of a party to put forth and maintain an

identifiable party platform.

However, this also is an issue of personal, as opposed to organizational rights.

I look forward to Mr. Hudak's announcement that he will introduce legislation, if ever given the opportunity, to give all MPPs the right to a "free vote," all the time in the legislature of Ontario. Afterall, to do otherwise, would be undemocratic.

*Wayne Redekop
Fort Erie*

Recognize the people who have kept the wheels turning

Dear Editor,

I find the current theme of letters written to the editor to be not only negative and repetitive, but mundane at best.

The kneejerk reaction is to jump on the bandwagon and get the Hatfield and McCoy juices flowing.

This is a crucial time in the economic future of this Town, and it's time to recognize the people who have kept the wheels on the bus let alone turning.

One such person is Mr. Jim Thibert who should

be commended for his countless hours of hard work and dedication in keeping the Fort Erie Racetrack viable these past few years along with his duties at the EDTC. The Fort Erie Racetrack is probably the most important issue of this decade.

Jobs, people...Jobs. So get off your high horses and your political correctness nonsense and get on with the tasks at hand. Common sense should prevail.

*Jill Brewster
Ridgeway*

Yellow Shirts thankful for everyone who has signed petition

Dear Editor,

Thank you everyone who has signed the Petition to build a new hospital in Niagara on Lyons Creek Rd. adjacent to the Q.E.W.

If you haven't signed yet go to a local store, restaurant, or Town Hall, as we tried to place petitions in all of these places to cover the Town of Fort Erie.

The Yellow Shirt Brigade is still active and run by the

core group that has been making decisions and plans to get healthcare back for the residents of Fort Erie and Niagara. We promised that we would not give up, have not given up, and will continue to fight now to have the new hospital built so all can access it.

It will be new, have all the necessary staff, modern up to date equipment and supplies needed to give us the equal accessible

healthcare we have been working for.

It would be great if we could have the Douglas Memorial Hospital back but we have to be realistic and accept the fact that it will never be what it was at one time.

Medicine has progressed and equipment and treatments have changed drastically.

Our family doctors used to man the emergency

departments in our local hospital on a rotation basis, but then Med-Emerg started in 1983, blended into our system and do most of the U.C.C. practice, leaving the local doctors more family time, as they deserve.

There are very few of us who would welcome being called at all hours of the day and night to rush to a home or hospital to see a patient, and that is what our older doctors did.

They would be called from wherever they were at any time of day or night, and they would go because they were dedicated and knew that, when they went to school for years and took the "oath".

It does not mean that our younger doctors do not have the dedication that their predecessors had, it just means that they need to have a home life like we all do and a system in place

that will give that to them.

Our Urgent Care Centres take care of their patients when they are not in their offices and the family practitioner follows up on the treatment.

Take the Tour of the St. Catharines Hospital and think positive thoughts for Niagara.

*Joy Russell
Yellow Shirt Brigade*

'So far the only leadership is coming from our four councillors'

This is a response to a letter from Paul Fell, that was printed in the Jan. 5 edition of the Fort Erie Times

Dear Editor,

Mr. Fell states that the four councillors are a joke and that they have made the Town of Fort Erie the laughing stock of the region and the province.

Mr. Fell you definitely need to pay more atten-

tion. We all need to be reminded that Mayor Martin said this town is closed for business.

Mayor Martin told Premier Dalton McGuinty to come to Fort Erie, take the keys and to turn out the lights when he left. Not our four councillors.

And what about the insulting and embarrassing banner at the race track, reminding every resident, visitor and potential investor that drove by that

everything in this town was closed or closing.

You state that these four councillors vote together to get their ill-advised way.

I have to ask Mr. Fell, what do you want done that these four councillors aren't getting done? The facts speak for themselves. Just look at what has been accomplished over the past two years.

I'm surprised Mr. Fell feels this council should

reveal confidential information regarding the CAO. If I recall Mr. Fell, you were a member of the council that hired our former CAO. Maybe you need to be reminded of how our former mayor handled that hiring process. I'm sure that you were subjected to confidentiality.

Councillor Steckley was commenting on Mayor Martin's breach of confidentiality and the disregard to the rules of proce-

dures. Mayor Martin released confidential information to the press and that was a total lack of leadership.

So far the only leadership is coming from our four councillors.

It seems the four councillors are wrong unless they think the way you do. I'm surprised Mr. Fell, didn't you teach your students to think for themselves?

And by the way I looked

up the definition of "oligarchy."

Such a state is usually controlled by a few prominent families who pass their influence on from one generation to the next.

That is something the majority of us hope the four councillors will change.

*Gayne Martineau
Fort Erie*

Council gets update on pre-clearance plan at Peace Bridge

➤ Staging trucks would not be necessary if 12 new booths are built on Canadian side of border

Kris Dubé
Editor

It's possible that in the near future, commercial vehicles entering the U.S. will have to go through pre-clearance on the Canadian side of the border.

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA)'s general manager, Ron Rienas, made a delegation at Monday's regular council meeting, as the result of a request made by Ward 3 Coun. Bob Stieckley several months ago, to provide council with an update on shared border issues.

In 2007 and 2009, the idea of shared border management was discussed between both federal governments and each time it was deter-

mined that allowing armed U.S. customs officers to conduct primary and secondary inspections on Canadian soil, violated the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Rienas said "a lot of time and effort" went into the idea through high-level conversations, but ultimately it did not go beyond that.

In 2011, the Beyond the Border program was formed, a plan between Canada and the U.S. to address efficiencies at border crossings.

As part of this plan, the PBA is now considering the construction of 12 booths on the current staging area on the Canadian side of the Peace Bridge to loosen traffic congestion related to commercial vehicles.

It would also create more room for cars to cross the border in a more timely fashion, being faced with less traffic because it would open up the lane that is currently used for truck queuing most of the time.

Rienas said the re-configuration means trucks would go through primary inspection

“All of the enforcement activity would remain on the U.S. side.”

— Ron Rienas

tion in Canada and file necessary paperwork, before heading to the U.S. for secondary inspection, if deemed necessary.

"All of the enforcement activity would remain on the U.S. side," said Rienas.

Currently, 10 per cent of all commercial vehicles are referred to secondary inspection at the Peace Bridge.

He said both governments were hoping to have a plan in place by the end of 2012 but that date has come and gone.

Instead, there will be a

two-phase pilot project with the first test of the program taking place between the crossing at Washington state and British Columbia.

He estimates this trial run would last about six months, before a second pilot project would be set up at the Peace Bridge.

This would run for about 18 months with two booths being set up.

It would serve as a test for the necessary technology that would be incorporated if the reconfiguration were to become a reality.

To build and place all 12 booths and make reconfigurations to the Canadian plaza, Rienas said the overall cost would be around \$25 million.

"We don't want to build something and find out it doesn't work," said Rienas about why it is important to start with a pilot project.

Currently, there are seven commercial booths on the U.S. side.

The PBA's general manager also said these improvements would eliminate the

need for a staging area, which is good for the environment because trucks would not have to idle for long periods of time the way they do now.

"Our objective is to get trucks moving through as quickly as possible," he said.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular asked if these improvements would require the PBA to purchase any additional lands.

Rienas said it would not. "There isn't one square inch of property required to make this proposal," said Rienas.

Ward 4 Coun. John Hill asked Rienas if this proposal has any connection to the PBA's intention to make improvements to the U.S. plaza.

Rienas said they are two separate projects.

"This can happen independently," said Rienas.

The project on the American side is expected to get started in October of this year and cost about \$45 million.

State of Fort Erie speech planned

Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin will present his "State of Fort Erie" speech Jan. 30 at a town chamber of commerce breakfast. After a bruising 2012 that saw the Ontario Lottery and Gaming slots operation close and the storied Fort Erie Race Track's future left uncertain, Martin will describe what's in store for his town in 2013.

The mayor will be joined by economic development manager Jim Thibert and chamber of commerce president Dean Demizio.

In January and February, it's common for mayors to give speeches about the states of their communities, modelled after the State of the Union Address the U.S. president is required to give once a year.

The Fort Erie meeting will be held at the Bridgewater Country Club on Gilmore Rd., from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tickets are being sold in advance for \$16 to chamber of commerce members and \$20 for non-members. Information or tickets: 905-871-3803.



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Greater Fort Erie shines with holiday donations

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

With a rough economic year ending in Fort Erie, this holiday season local food banks needed more help than ever to support the demand of families who needed assistance.

Community members and businesses made sure that no family was left behind in the Greater Fort Erie area as local food banks reported a tremendous year of giving and support to help those who were in need.

Barb Volzke, manager at Community Outreach Program Erie (COPE), said that she saw a lot of new donors this year, which was good.

"People were very generous, we couldn't do this without the support of the community she said."

The penny drive has also raised over \$5,500, with their goal set for \$10,000. Volzke is confident that they will reach their goal.

Judy Learn, president of St. Vincent De Paul, said that they did very well this year and because of the support were able to help 175 families. They provided families with a full turkey or ham meal as well as toys and gifts.

"The community has been absolutely amazing, people in the community, businesses and parish members were all very generous."

Because of the generosity they were able to provide over 100 kids with three toys

each.

"It was our best year for donations. The area schools had food drives and the three local fire departments of Crystal Beach, Ridgeway and Stevensville held food drives as well," she said.

The demand for items this year was at an all time high as well. The amount of families they helped this year was a record for them, and they continue to help about 100 families a month.

Like all the other food banks in the area, St. Vincent De Paul accepts donations all year round.

"We're very thankful to the communities, this is a wonderful area to live in. We were able to pay our bills and help people during January and February who are struggling

to pay their bills," said Learn.

Volzke said that COPE helps about 700 every month and due to the high demand at Christmas their shelves, which were once stocked with food are getting bare.

"The holiday is our biggest time of year for donations, but we need them all year round," she said.

This year COPE will be celebrating 30 years of serving the community.

Though times have been difficult for many Fort Erie residents, the spirit of giving has grown in the community.

The Salvation Army of Fort Erie, was blown away by the generous donations they received this holiday season. Through the Christmas Kettles they set their goal at

\$43,000.

"We exceeded that goal, and ended up bringing in closer to \$55,000," said Elliott Innes, community and family services manager.

Prior to the holiday season the Salvation Army was concerned that they may not have enough volunteers to run the Christmas Kettles at full-force, however they saw 40 people sign up to stand at the kettles.

Through the Christmas Hampers program this year 260 families were helped.

"Christmas is the time of year people give the most, but we need the support year round," said Innes.

The Salvation Army is expecting a 50 to 70 per cent increase of those looking for assistance with their utility

bills.

They assist about 1,000 people a month and are looking for people to step up and donate on a regular basis each month.

"It's nice if someone sets up a regular donation because then we can budget accordingly and it's an amount we know we can count on."

"You don't get the same warm fuzzies as helping over Christmas, but your donation is still important to the families in the area that are struggling."

Donations can be given online, in person at their office on 255 Gilmore Rd., by mail at The Salvation Army of Fort Erie, 255 Gilmore Rd, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2M4 or by texting HOPE to 45678.

Apprenticeship programs valuable for youth looking for employment

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Hands on experience in any field of work is a valuable asset, and not one you can typically gain through school alone.

For many, an apprenticeship program cannot only help young workers gain experience, but it can also prevent them from taking on more debt through extended schooling.

An apprentice learns a skilled trade on the job, under the direction of more experienced workers. They will also complete classroom instruction as part of their training.

Laryssa Smith, supervisor of employment programs at the Job Gym in Fort Erie said that as an agency they help youth find a place that is willing to do apprenticeships.

The Job Gym has seen first hand the benefits of apprenticeships, which range from people in the electrical field to hairdressing.

"The hope is that after the apprenticeship is over the employer will want to keep them on board, but if not, the

Job Gym will help them look for employment," said Smith.

The apprentice will work the same as any regular employee at their place of employment.

Becoming an apprentice can be an important first step to learning new skills and building a rewarding career, jobs in the skilled trades pay well, and are interesting and challenging.

Smith said people who are interested in becoming an apprentice must have the willingness to learn.

"You have to be aware that you're starting at the bottom and working your way up,"

she said.

"You gain hands on learning and you're being taught and trained in a job you applied for. You're getting the most current and accurate information," said Smith.

Apprentice's come from both high school and college, and with the difficult times in the economy is a great asset for youth to have.

As people complete their high school or college education they are faced with the search for a job, which at times can be challenging. They typically are also faced with debt from college. Because they are a paid

employee as an apprentice, it allows them to not just train, but to pay off debt, or avoid adding any additional debt.

Smith said anyone who

wants to do an apprenticeship program, or has any questions should stop by the Fort Erie Job Gym office at 469 Central Ave, or call 905-871-

3952.

More information on apprenticeship programs can also be found at www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/apprentices.

18th Annual Mid- Winter POW WOW

REKINDLING OUR TRADITIONS

Saturday March 2nd, 2013

Grand Entry 12:00

796 Buffalo Rd

ON L2A 5H2

ON L2A 5H2

Calling all Dancers, Singers and Drummers

• All Drums must pre-register

• Vendors please call Dionno or Jackie at 905-871-8931

Louney Auction Smoke Dance Competition 5:30/Drow

Non perishable food items as well as monetary donations accepted at the door

Sponsored By the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre



CRYSTAL RIDGE
SKATING CLUB



PUB NIGHT

Fund Raiser



MUSIC, FOOD,
RAFFLES
& GAMES



SAT. FEB. 2, 7pm - 1am

FORT ERIE GOLF CLUB
(REAR HALL ON SUNSET DRIVE)



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Sharon Svob, Lisa McLaren and Darlene Hazlett from Big Brothers Big Sisters with siblings Kayla and Riley Held after making a presentation to council on Monday night about the upcoming Bowl for Kids Sake event.

Get ready to bowl for the kids

It's that time of year again, where the local Big Brothers Big Sisters agency needs support from the community through a fun-filled event.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is hitting Carroll's Bowling Lanes once again and there are three dates for the public to

sign up.

Teams of five to six people are welcomed, as the agency hopes to reach its \$40,000 goal for the campaign.

Each bowler is required to pledge at least \$50. Sponsorships and prizes are also being accepted.

To register online, visit www.forterie.kintera.org/ now. You can also arrange to pick-up pledge forms by calling the Fort Erie office at (905) 871-8836.

Dates open to the public are Feb. 23 and 24 and March 2. Call today to reserve your time slot.



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Marguerite Hanratty and Community Living Fort Erie's board president Pam Coulthurst with a plaque, honouring Hanratty's son Ben, one of the first people supported by the agency when it was founded 50 years ago.

Remembering a 'gentle giant'

Kris Dubé
Editor

Community Living has presented a plaque to one of its founding members, in memory of her son.

When Ben Miller was born with Down Syndrome in 1945 there were no services for children with special needs. From the birth of this child, developed a group of parent advocates who fought for the rights of children with intellectual challenges.

"Through the hard work and dedication of these volunteer parents who wanted

more for their sons and daughters. Community Living Fort Erie was founded," said Margaret Fidler, manager of community development for the agency.

Ben's mother, Marguerite Hanratty said she is thrilled and blessed to know that the organization wanted to pay tribute to her son, who passed away last October.

"They've been so supportive over the years and I know he'd be thrilled too," she said.

Ben grew up in the North End of Fort Erie and when news of his death spread memories and stories start-

ed flowing. Many people remember Ben directing young children safely across the street. He truly loved children and was often referred to as a "gentle giant."

Ben was an avid bowler and was one of the first Olympians in the Niagara region to attend the first Special Olympics Adult Games. He also enjoyed track and field, darts and bocce.

Ben was a Life Member of Community Living Port Erie. He enjoyed woodworking, sketching and volunteer work. He was a member of Beachcombers 50+ where he excelled in darts.

IE"
Ben was also a member of the Col. John Butler Branch of the United Loyalist Association of Canada. A celebration of Ben's life took place last October at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 71.

Mrs. O's Pharmacy

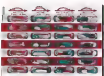
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Join us for breakfast & discussion about the

“STATE OF FORT ERIE”

Wednesday, January 30th, 2013
8 a.m.—10 a.m. (Registration at 7:30 a.m.)
Bridgewater Country Club, 700 Gilmore Road, Fort Erie

• Mayoral Address • Chamber Address • FE EDTC Update

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY:

\$16 Chamber members / \$20 non members including breakfast buffet

Register 905-871-3803 or email info@forteriechamber.com

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FORT ERIE TRANSIT STEVENSVILLE OPEN HOUSE

The Town of Fort Erie is asking the public to come out to a local Open House in the Stevensville, Douglastown and Black Creek area to discuss transit programs. We want to hear from you. We want to know what your expectations are with regards to the route and general service satisfaction. All your comments will enable us to create a better transit service.

We're excited about where transit is going and we're committed to making our Town transit better every day.

- Find out more:
- Fill out the survey on our website at www.forterie.on.ca
 - Call us at 905-871-1600 (Ext 2401) for more information
 - Come to our Stevensville Open House!

Thursday, January 31, 2013
Stevensville Library
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

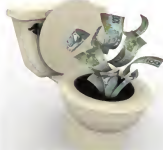


Infrastructure
Services

Did you know?

A leaking toilet can waste over 200,000 litres of water a year. That's enough water to fill a large swimming pool. It could be costing you over \$500.00 a year.

Water conservation initiatives will save you money and protect our environment.



For more conservation information log onto our website at www.forterie.on.ca
Contact our Water/Wastewater Services Division for a free "leaky toilet test kit" at 905-871-1600 ext. 2466.



Infrastructure
Services

NOTICE OF PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW

Planning Act, 1990, c. P 13, ss.34(16), O.Reg. 545/06

APPLICANT: LEIGH WHYTE
OWNER: ASHTON HOMES (WESTERN) LTD. (ALDO VERCILLO)

FILE # 350309-0348

TAKE NOTICE

that the Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed By-law Number 11-13 on the 17th day of January, 2013 under section 34 of The Planning Act, 1990.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board in respect of the by-law by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Fort Erie not later than the 15th day of February, 2013, a notice of the appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection. Any appeal must be accompanied by the Board's fee of \$125.00. A certified cheque or money order in this amount made payable to the Minister of Finance must accompany the Notice of Appeal.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a zoning by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board. A Notice of Appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a Notice of Appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf. No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

An explanation of the Purpose and Effect of the By-law, describing the lands to which the By-law applies may be found below and a key map showing the location of the lands to which the By-law applies is shown above. The complete By-law is available for inspection in the Clerk's office during regular office hours and also can be found on the Town of Fort Erie website: www.forterie.on.ca.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

The purpose and effect of By-law 11-12 is to amend Zoning By-law 129-90 (COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BY-LAW) by changing the zoning of lands shown on the location map above as follows:

Part 1 from "Neighbourhood Development (ND) Zone" to "Residential Multiple 1 (RM1) Zone"; Part 2 from "Neighbourhood Development (ND) Zone" and "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to "Open Space Holding OS-479 (H) Zone"; Part 3 from "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to "Open Space Holding OS-479 (H) Zone"; Part 4 from "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to "Residential Multiple 1 Holding RM1 (H) Zone"; Part 5 from "Open Space Holding OS-361 (H) Zone" and "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to "Open Space Holding OS-480 (H) Zone"; and Part 6 from "Residential 2 Holding R2-960 (H) Zone" to "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone".

By-law 11-12 further amends Zoning By-law No. 129-90 by changing the lands shown as Part 2 from "Neighbourhood Development (ND) Zone" and "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to site specific "Open Space Holding OS-479 (H) Zone". Since the Holding has been removed, after the Council of the Town of Fort Erie has approved the Subdivision Agreement, the lands shall be used as a stormwater management pond only.

By-law 11-12 further amends Zoning By-law No. 129-90 by changing the lands shown as Part 3 from "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to site specific "Open Space Holding OS-479 (H) Zone". Since the Holding has been removed, after the Council of the Town of Fort Erie has approved the Subdivision Agreement, the lands shall be used for pedestrian access only.

By-law 11-12 further amends Zoning By-law No. 129-90 by changing the lands shown as Part 5 from "Open Space Holding OS-361 (H) Zone" and "Residential 2 Holding R2 (H) Zone" to site specific "Open Space Holding OS-480 (H) Zone". One the Holding has been removed, after the Council of the Town of Fort Erie has approved the Subdivision Agreement, the lands shall be used as a public park only.

The subject lands is also the subject of approval of a plan of subdivision, File No. 350309-0069.

DATED AT THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY, 2013
CAROLYN KETT, TOWN CLERK



- Part 1 - Neighbourhood Development (ND) Zone to Residential Multiple 1 (RM1) Zone
- Part 2 - Neighbourhood Development (ND) Zone and Residential 2 Holding (R2)(H) Zone to Open Space Holding (OS-479)(H) Zone
- Part 3 - Residential 2 Holding (R2)(H) Zone to Open Space Holding (OS-479)(H) Zone
- Part 4 - Residential 2 Holding (R2)(H) Zone to Open Space Holding (OS-480)(H) Zone
- Part 5 - Open Space Holding (OS-361)(H) Zone and Residential 2 Holding (R2)(H) Zone to Open Space Holding (OS-480)(H) Zone
- Part 6 - Residential 2 Holding (R2-960)(H) Zone to Residential 2 Holding (R2)(H) Zone

New fire station will serve as a centrepiece for the community

Kris Dubé
Editor

Two fire stations will be out of their aging buildings and into a brand new facility by March, says Fort Erie Fire Department (FEFD) chief Larry Coplen.

Ground was broken back in June on the Central Avenue fire station and since then, about 95 per cent of the work has been completed.

Details such as landscaping and a second coat of asphalt on the parking lot are some of the minor details that will be completed in Spring.

Inside, fire service technology like dispatch printers still need to be installed and racks for bunker gear have yet to be mounted.

A small fire-themed museum will also be added to the finished product upon official completion.

The next big step, according to Coplen, is moving all

the necessary equipment from both halls on Bertie and Jarvis Streets into the new facility that has a price tag just under \$4 million, funded entirely by the municipality.

"Our goal is to start moving things in next week," said Coplen.

The FEFD has been pushing for a new facility since the last term of council, saying that stations one and two were not in good enough shape to allow both fire companies to operate effectively and efficiently.

Coplen says the new building, that will merge stations one and two under one roof, is the solution.

"Now, our firefighters will have a modern facility with all the needed safety standards," said Coplen.

Not only will the new hall allow the FEFD to perform more effectively in wards one and two, it will also serve as a social venue for local residents and organi-

zations, including the FEFD.

"It will be a centrepiece for the community," said Coplen.

Although the new building on Central Avenue is being embraced with plenty of positivity from the FEFD, it was still met with some opposition from the community.

It sits in front of the Fort Erie Historical Railroad Museum and some concern has been expressed about it towering over the local locomotive shrine.

But Coplen said the museum has been the beneficiary of many benefits because of the new station.

Utility works with sewers, a new and improved parking area, enhanced security and lighting and even an approach taken by the project's architects to complement the nearby museum by giving it a historic look, are all measures that were taken.



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Fire chief Larry Coplen in front of the new Central Avenue Fire Station, which is expected to be in operation by March.

"I agree the view is blocked, but there is also a whole pile of benefits," said Coplen.

Chris Greaves is the district chief for both fire companies that will be moving into their new home in March.

He says there is plenty of enthusiasm within the FEFD about the hall's completion.

"It's going to be an excit-

ing adventure, everyone is pumped," said Greaves, who has been a local firefighter for 18 years.

Since both fire companies have amalgamated, Greaves says that even at training sessions it is evident that forming one team under one roof will pay off.

"We're learning a lot from each other," he said.

Ward 1 Coun. Stephen

Passero said the new hall is going to be a great addition to the area he represents and that many people will be a part of the benefits... not just the fire department.

"Making it a community gathering place was the intention all along," he said.

With the railroad museum and Sugarbowl Park both being so close, he said the nearby sites will complement one another.

"That really was our focus, to tie all three of those spaces together."

As the new hall nears completion, the Town of Fort Erie is also working on what to do with the halls on Bertie and Jarvis Streets, which will be taken out of operation.

It is expected that station one on Bertie Street will be re-zoned for residential use and station two on Jarvis will be turned into a commercial property.

Station one was built in 1949 and used as a firehall from day one.

On Jarvis Street, station two became an asset of the fire department in the 1950's and was formerly the municipality's waterworks building.

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Local teens use talent to combat bullying

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie teen Justin Preston let three hateful words affect his whole life.

"I was bullied for a really long time," said Preston.

Instead of being crushed by the hurtful words, Preston stood tall and continued to wear his smile. It was when 15-year-old Jamie Hubley took his own life that Preston felt that he had to do something to help. Hubley was an openly gay male who attended an Ottawa area school.

"I felt so much anger after Jamie took his own life, I knew I couldn't stay quiet anymore."

Preston started up a Facebook page two years ago called Rise Against Bullying, and what he didn't know then was that he would soon become an inspiration and a beacon of hope for others who were going through the same thing.

"I have a passion for mental health issues, helping people is what I believe in," he said. Preston will be attending college to become a child and youth worker.

His page focuses on stories of bullying from all over the world, as well as people's personal stories of struggle and triumph and inspirational messages. He also offers his time to lend an ear to people who need to talk.

"I'm there for them, I spend my life on the computer talking to people with issues. I let them come to me. I want to show my true colours and let them know that someone does care," he said.

Through his passion of spreading the anti-bullying message he met Carina Frammartino, who is also a local Fort Erie teen.

"I always saw Carina around in Crystal Beach, but she always had her headphones in and didn't really talk to anyone," he recalled.

He stumbled across her video on YouTube and became 'obsessed' with her song.

"I kept playing the song over and over," he said of her single Makes Me Feel Better.

Frammartino knew who Preston was as well, but hadn't spoken to him prior to that.

"I knew he was popular, he



Justin Preston and Carina Frammartino unite over their passion for putting an end to bullying.

had a lot of friends. When he sent me a message and told me he loved my song I was happy that he noticed me," said Carina.

Frammartino and Preston, both 19, bonded over their passion to stop bullying and have since become close friends.

"Together we can make a difference. Too many kids are taking their own lives. Technology is making things worse, there's so much Internet bullying. When kids are bullied they often develop depression/anxiety and isolate themselves," she said.

It's the isolation that becomes dangerous. Preston hid his depression and thoughts of taking his own life from everyone.

"My family had no idea. I led on like everything was OK," he said. He reached out for help by calling the Kids Help Phone, but he didn't want anyone to know.

"Kids are getting bullied for being gay, overweight or

having a disability. There's bullying everywhere. Kids are brutal. As a community we need to rise up and show that this isn't acceptable," he said.

Frammartino said a lot of the problem is that people are afraid to stand up.

"If you stand up for someone who is being bullied, you will become a victim too. Everyone is trying so hard to fit in and not be bullied that no one is stopping it," she said.

Frammartino's mom, Sonya, said that bullying and a child taking their own life is every parent's worst nightmare, yet it's something that's not addressed enough.

"You have to be aware of the warning signs in your children," she said.

"There is a lot of gay bashing going on and people are killing themselves. Bullying should not be accepted," said Frammartino.

While Preston was able to

rise above his bullies and enjoy a great final year of high school, some people aren't as fortunate, opting to take their lives or drop out of school.

"I'm just a Fort Erie kid who shared his story. People told me that I should have ended my life," he said.

Now people are looking to him for support.

"People have thanked him for saving their lives," said Sonya.

Frammartino is working on a new single, which will also be about bullying. Because music is a universal language it has the ability to speak to a large audience, Frammartino hopes that her songs will reach out to peo-

ple who are struggling and give them hope.

Frammartino has come a long way to find the confidence to sing. Her mom knew she had the talent at a young age, but was waiting for her to be ready.

"When I write a song I write it so it's catchy, original and so people can feel at home with the song. Everyone can relate to music," she said.

Frammartino's single can be found on iTunes and she also has a CD, which sells for \$2.50.

Preston has bracelets for sale for \$2.50, with all the proceeds going towards more bracelets and anti-bullying T-shirts.

He is working on getting a youth concert together featuring local talent, to help support Rise Against Bullying.

Though his website isn't about raising money, any funds that are donated are appreciated to help with the costs of the T-shirts/bracelets and events that he hopes to be able to host in the future.

Frammartino will be performing at Trillials Bar and Grill in Ridgeway, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Preston's video of his story can be found on YouTube, as can Frammartino's single.

"Strength comes in numbers. This needs to stop," said Preston.

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Figure skaters compete in Grimsby

A group of young athletes from the Fort Erie Figure Skating Club returned home from a competition with plenty of hardware.

At the Charles Dover Memorial competition held earlier this month in Grimsby, six skaters com-

peted.

Georgina Kosanic came tenth in the starskate senior bronze, John Dermott came first in the men's starskate junior bronze and Madelyn Beam placed third in starskate junior bronze.

Audrey Morrison placed

first in starskate junior bronze. Cassandra Langlois-Paul placed sixth in the WO preliminary and Kourtney Edmunds placed first in the WO preliminary category.

The club is now getting ready for its next competition at the end of March.



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Local figure skaters Kourtney Edmunds, front left, Audrey Morrison and Georgina Kosanic, Madelyn Beam, back left, Cassandra Langlois-Paul and John Dermott.

Ridgeway murder mystery

The Black Creek-Stevensville Lions Club will be presenting a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.

Currently tickets for the event are sold out, but the public should be made aware that the evening will be outstanding, says one of the event's organizers.

People who are attending are reminded to bring along cash or cheques for the raffle and silent auction as the

community has been beyond generous with donating items.

The interactive evening, by Cloak and Dagger, a local acting group out of Chippawa.

The Lions expect the evening to be a lot of fun and something unique for the area.

Proceeds from the event will go to Camp Huronda in Huntsville for the replace-

ment of their education centre.

The murder mystery will take place at the Ridgeway Lions Hall, 99 Ridge Road in Ridgeway.

Pre-novice champs



A group of pre-novice house skaters represented Fort Erie, as the Fort Erie Junior Meteors, on January 2 and 3 in Hamilton. The team wore the Meteor's colours proudly, and won all three of their games at the fifth annual Tyke Tournament. Team members include Mitchell Reeves, Tate Donald, Keith Sutherland, Max Heron, Ellie Osbourne, Liam Stokland, Jack Lunn, Ryder Fletcher, Brayden Stoddard, Josh Guizon, Anthony Maulucci, Mason Achtyl, and Ella Millar. Coaches are Allen Stoddard, Craig Lunn, Scott Herron, Simon Reeves and Rob Donald.

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Teacher receives prestigious award

Kris Dubé
Editor

A local teacher has received a prestigious award for his contributions to arts programming at St. Philomena Catholic Elementary School. Paul Lukacs has been a grade five teacher at the school for the last two years of his 15-year career in education and last week, received the Carousel Players' annual Norah Morgan Memorial Award.

The award celebrates educators who excel at integrating and promoting arts in their lesson plans at elementary schools in Niagara.

Lukacs, a St. Catharines resident, was thankful for the nomination submitted by St. Philomena principal Robert Grand and to eventually be named the annual recipient.

"It's a great honour," said Lukacs.

An Egyptian fashion show that coincided with a lesson on ancient civilization and showing students how to play the harmonica are just two of the approaches he has taken, but Lukacs said the arts is something young people are very interested in.

"Kids love being creative," he said.

Lukacs also feels that arts and drama are a unique way to help students develop their social skills, preparing for the rest of their life.

"I've seen a lot of students come out of their shell that were normally very shy," he said.

Allowing students to use their imagination while also learning about important times in history or develop their language skills, is something he stands by as being one of the most effective ways to educate young minds.

"There are a lot of ways you can tie things into the arts," said Lukacs.

Robert Grand, the school's principal, said Lukacs is a dynamic and energetic teacher who has had a very positive impact on St. Philomena in the two years he has been there.

"Paul is an exemplary teacher in terms of promoting and integrating music, drama and dance into his classroom at our school," said Grand.

For more information, visit www.carouselplayers.com.



St. Philomena teacher Paul Lukacs, with students Sara Marr, Hannah Bourdon and Chloe Craig.



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Bouquet to warm donation
From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank the owner of our local Tim Horton's. On Thursday, one of the coldest days of the year, I made a phone call and spoke to the manager. I explained there were about 50 former employees outside the Vertis Communications Stevensville plant providing an information picket about the jobs they lost. I simply asked if the store could do something for these guys. Five minutes later, the owner said he would provide a large coffee urn and enough donuts for everyone. Both the owner and manager conveyed the message to me that we are a community and we all have to stick together and support one another. This is what Fort Erie should be most proud of and I would also like to thank them for getting everything ready in such a short time.

Brick to negative and cold vibes
I would like to send a brick to all the negative and cold people who bring in bad vibes and hurt people. Fort Erie is a beautiful town which we should all be proud of but yet there are people who just don't

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appreciate the beauty of this town and go on hurting innocent people with slanderous emails and sending them out to others and thinking they are doing nothing wrong. There comes a time in life, one should re-evaluate their lives and appreciate what they have and character is one of them. The town is beautiful and if only the negative and ignorant people would stop to think about their own lives and how unhappy they are, this town would be wonderful! Grow up and act like adults and stop being bullies and face it, you are only hurting yourselves. This is no way to teach our children morals and how to be kind.

Bouquet to helpful couple
I'd like to send a bouquet to the nice couple who found a case that I keep several of my cards in, after I misplaced it at a local store. I'm very appreciative of what they did for me and to them I say "thank you."

Brick to too much salt
This is a brick to the Town of Fort Erie for dumping salt all over our roads when we only have less than an inch of snow. To me, I find this to be wasteful. The cost of all this salt could be put toward actually fixing some of our roads.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF

MARGARET JUNE DAVIES

All persons having claims against the Estate of MARGARET JUNE DAVIES, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 29th day of December, 2012 are notified to send their claims to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2013, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2013.
Ronald Gordon Davies, late Alexander Davies, Norman Steven Davies and Henry Ann Davies, Executors, by their solicitors
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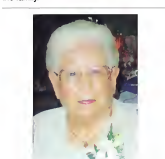
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Obituaries

BRIX, Joyce Enid • Born in England on May 7th, 1916 Joyce passed away at Maple Park Lodge on January 22nd, 2013 in her 97th year, surrounded by the love of her family. Wife of the late Frank Brix. Loving mother of Diane (Bill) Sroloky and Joseph (Doug) Leonard of Fort Erie. Sadly missed by her grandchildren Christopher, David & Kevin Loppunen, Marc (Veronica) Leonard and Stephanie (Jim) Phibbs. Cherished great grandmother of Southern, Melanie & Matthew Loppunen and Andrew & Emily Leonard. Fondly remembered by her extended family Michael Szolozay and Sarah Dredge and their family in England and Robert Szolozay in Toronto. Predeceased by her sister Beatrice and brother Ken. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Berner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family received friends at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Friday January 25th, from 11am until time of service in the church at 12 noon. Interment followed in St. Paul's Churchyard. In memory of Joyce donations to St. St. Paul's Church (stained glass window restoration fund) would be appreciated by the family.



DESROSIERS, Marjorie (nee Lanaway) • Passed away peacefully at Gilmore Lodge on Sunday January 20th, 2013. Loving wife of the late Raymond (2003). Beloved mother of Brian (Cathy), Brenda and Blaine (Dabbie). Cherished grandmother of Jennifer, Matthew and Michelle and loving great grandmother of Aiden, Easton and Brynlee. Dear sister of Ethel Atchison and predeceased by her siblings Gordon, Norman Lanaway and Jean Barnes. A sincere thank you to the wonderful nurses and staff at Gilmore Lodge for taking such good care of our mom. We will always be remembered. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES** 1105 Berner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. Friends called on Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Services were conducted on Thursday morning at 11 o'clock at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 32 Ivylovely Street Fort Erie. Interment followed at McAfee Cemetery. If so desired, in lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to the Parkinson Foundation.



Obituaries

EBER, Mary Ann • In her 91st year, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 19, 2013 at Oakwood Park Lodge, Niagara Falls. Predeceased by her parents Joseph & Catherine Eber, and siblings Charles (Mary) & Grace. Sadly missed by Celia (Robert) Garter and Rosanna (Ray) Martin. At Mary Ann's request cremation has taken place and a private interment at Greenwood Cemetery has been held. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120



HUTCHINSON, Jennie (Joanna) • Peacefully at Douglas Memorial Hospital on Monday, 21st of January, 2013 in her 83rd year. Grievously missed by her husband (Cliff) of 57 years, son John, daughter Lynn (Russell) Larsen and Kris (Alex) Glanville. Also by her sister, Mary Lou Cannuli, brother Mel (Eleanor) Cannuli, and sisters-in-law Adele Carter and Anna Hutchinson. A long-time member of St. Michael's C.W.L., she was also deeply involved with the Blood Donor Clinics in Fort Erie. Following her wishes, Jennie has been cremated. Her family will receive their friends at the **WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**, 722 Ridge Road North, Ridgeway on Monday, January 22nd from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. A Memorial Mass will be held at a later date in St. Michael's Church in Fort Erie. In lieu of flowers, from those who wish to do so, donations would be appreciated for the Bruce Trail Conservancy or the Canadian Cancer Society. On line guest register www.williamsfuneralhome.ca



Obituaries



MACDONALD, Aidan Lucia (nee Pilato) • On Tuesday January 22, 2013, Aidan passed away at the Hamilton General Hospital at the age of 82. Beloved mother of Melissa Macdonald, Craig (Kate) Macdonald and Steven Cox and his partner Katia Clampa. Proud & loving Nana of Abigail and Amelia. Dear sister of her twin Angela Gordon and also Louise Pagliacci, Isabella Pagliacci, John Pilato and Eugene Pilato. Aidan will be sadly missed by her many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her parents Joseph and Alfonso Pilato and her sisters Mary Faj and Sarah Cruise. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Berner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. Visitation was held at the funeral home on Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. A Funeral Mass to celebrate Aidan's life was held at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. File of Committal followed at Greenwood Cemetery. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation at www.hhsc.ca or through the funeral home.



Obituaries

REHM, Ralph Raymond • On Thursday, January 24th, 2013, Ralph peacefully passed away at Douglas Memorial Hospital, Fort Erie at the age of 81 years. Predeceased by his loving wife Ruth (Grogg) nee Evelyn. Survived by family Deborah (Peggy) Kingston, James (Evelyn) Grogg, Margaret Pothier, Richard (Margaret) Grogg, John (Tami) Rehm and Mary Jo (John) Stolk. Also survived by five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and many nephews and nieces. Predeceased by his brother Tom Rehm and sisters Dorothy Rehm, Mary Eberly and Alois Plett. Ralph was kept busy running the family farm with his father until 1963. He retired from the M.T.C. in 1985 after 22 years. Ralph was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekah Association for over 30 years. A special thank you to the staff at Garrison Place, Douglas Memorial and Greater Niagara General Hospital, Dr. Che and Dr. Chan. Relatives and friends may call at **WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**, 722 Ridge Road North, Ridgeway on Monday, January 22nd from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. A service to celebrate Ralph's life will be held on Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock at the funeral home. Interment will follow at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery (Ridgemount). As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to The Heart and Stroke Foundation. On-line guest register at www.williamsfuneralhome.ca

SMITH, Florence • Florence Smith, passed away peacefully with her family by her side, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital on Saturday January 19th, 2013. Loving wife of the late Alan (2005). Cherished mother of Sean (Heather), Much loved grandmother of Turner, Austin and Colton. Predeceased by her daughters, Debbie and Kathy. Dear sister of John (Marg) Pilkey, Jackie Daley, Veronica Flannigan, Richard Pilkey and Jo (Eugene) Monrual and the late Bill Dexter and the late Lois Hannis. Florence will be sadly missed by her former daughter-in-law Annie, and also by Michael, Lucas, Autumn and Annie, her good friend and neighbour Helen Wray and many nieces and nephews. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES** 1105 Berner Ave. Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. Services were conducted on Wednesday afternoon from the Benner Funeral Chapel at 1 o'clock. Interment followed in Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, donations would be appreciated to the Fort Erie Palliative Care.

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In Memoriams



SAGER, Fred (Sach) - His Lord called him home on Saturday, January 19, 2013 in his 85th year, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital. Survived by wife Bette, son Den (Sheri), daughter Deborah (Paul) Hodges, grandchildren Eric (Amy), Laura, Stephen (Torl), Kevin (Sarah), Nick Hodges, Kris Hodges (Stacy), Melynda (Chris) Broadbent, Philip (Lisa), 3 great grandsons Michel, Lucas and Daniel, siblings Mildred Koerner, Gladys (Rom) Gaspari, Marion (Gord) Allan, Richard (Paul), Gloria Trombley, Jim (Jan), Carl (Erica), Cathy (Bill) Brocklin, Terry (Laurie), Susan (Ernie) Morris, Royce, Karen (Phyllis) Bredin, brothers-in-law Bob Ewin (Vi), Jack (Inga) Ewin and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by daughter Dail, parents Fred and Laura, siblings: Helen, Lydia, Harry, Jerry, John. Fred was a resident of Fort Erie for 29 years and Niagara Falls for 29 years. He drove transport for Direct and Motorways for 34 years. The family received friends at **MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME**, 5917 Main St., Niagara Falls, on Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. and on Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. A service to celebrate Fred's life was held at the funeral home on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 1 p.m. Burial to follow in May 2013 at Whitestone Cemetery, Whitestone, ON. In lieu of flowers donations to either Salvation Army, Prostate Cancer or Terry Fox Foundation, would be appreciated by the family. Memories, photos and condolences can be shared at www.morseandson.com

A Memorial Service has been made in



UNGER-SLOTE, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Richardson)
Passed away at Extensicare - Lakefield on Thursday January 17, 2012. Betty Unger, formerly of Fort Erie in her 82nd year. Wife of the late Karl Unger (d. 2005). Beloved mother of Leonard Slote of Atlanta, Georgia and Murray Slote (Dianne) of Omequa, Minnesota. Predeceased by her daughter Louise. Grandma will always be loved and remembered by Jodi (Andrew), Brad (Nicole), Amanda, Faye, Kevin, Derek, Sarah and by her great grandchildren Kyle, Kristine, Kayden and Shelby. Betty's family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Dr. Brendan Hughes and the wonderful staff at Extensicare, Lakefield for their friendship and compassion. Cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lakefield Animal Welfare Society, by contacting **THE HENDREN FUNERAL HOMES, LAKEFIELD CHAPEL** at www.hendrenfuneralhome.com or by calling 705-652-3355.

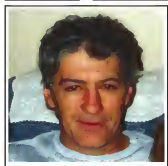
Death Notices

Death Notices

DELL-PHYLLIS, (Wagner) passed away in Calgary Alberta Monday, January 7th, 2013 in her 93rd year. Phyllis was born and raised in Carstairs, Alberta, before coming to Crystal Beach to work at Fleet Aircraft Fort Erie, during WWII. Phyllis was predeceased by her husband Joseph W. Dell 1966 and her daughter Karen Dell, 2003, of Ridgeway. A memorial service and interment were held in Carstairs Alberta.

In Memoriams

In Memoriams



Donald George Rivet (Gumby)

April 10, 1952 - January 24, 2011
Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts.

Loved forever
Brothers: Bob and Brian; Sister Julie;
Mom: Mary Lou (Bill)

SALLY KOWALSKI

- January 26, 2011 -



I have lost my
soul's companion
A life linked with my own;
And day by day I miss her more,
As I walk through life alone

Remembering you...
Your loving husband
Fred

SALLY KOWALSKI

- January 26, 2011 -



In our hearts your memory lingers,
sweetly, tender, fond and true.
There is not a day, dear mother,
that we do not think of you.

Missing you every day
Love your children
Karen, Kathy, Terry & Linda



Windsoretta McMillan

05.12.37 - 01.22.10

Remembering Winsor is easy.
We miss her every day.
Our loss and sadness is still real;
She lived her life seeking God's will;
She gave us positive inspiration and
positive memories. On her third
anniversary, we send our love.
You are gone in body but live strongly
within us in spirit. O.D.A.A.T.

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When families place their trust with me,
I do absolutely everything
I can to assist them.

Facilitating their needs and ensuring that the
services they have selected are handled in a
personal and professional manner are vital.

I take personal pride in helping in
any manner that I am able.

Darren Flagg

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\$2,000 down payment when you
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Includes freight and fees.
HST extra.



ALL-IN PRICE

\$30,460*

Includes freight
and fees.
HST extra.



INCLUDES

\$1,000

CUSTOMER INCENTIVE*



ALL-IN LEASE

\$178[†]@ 0.9% APR

per month for 60 months with
\$0 down payment when you
apply the Customer Incentive.*
Includes freight and fees.
HST extra.



ALL-IN PRICE

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Includes freight
and fees.
HST extra.



INCLUDES

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Limited time lease offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. **All-in price of a new 2013 Venza V6 AWD Touring Package (Model B1036T03/2013) Corolla S (Model B1044E06/2013) Sienna SE 8-Passenger (Model X1000T01) is \$40,070/\$33,960/\$38,975. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDI, HST, DMV, and insurance are extra). Dealer may sell for less. †All-in price of a new 2013 Venza FWD (Model ZAB25M02/2013) Corolla CE Manual (Model B1022M01/2013) Sienna LE 7-Passenger (Model K1000T01) is \$30,460/\$23,860/\$29,910. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDI, HST, DMV, and insurance are extra). Dealer may sell for less. (3.9% APR/3.9% lease APR on a new 2013 Venza FWD (Model ZAB25M02/2013) Corolla CE Manual (Model B1022M01/2013) Sienna LE 7-Passenger (Model K1000T01) for 60 months monthly, equals a monthly payment of \$339/\$178/\$239 with a \$2,000/\$0/\$150 down payment or make your own, when you apply the \$1,000/\$750 Customer Incentive. The monthly payment on all leases maximum. Total lease obligation is \$20,000/\$10,000/\$10,000. Additional \$100 charge of \$5,150/\$0/\$0 to be less as shown. If applicable, \$15,000/\$750 Customer Incentive on a new 2013 Venza FWD (Model ZAB25M02/2013) Corolla CE Manual is valid on Toyota retail delivery (including fleet sales) when financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Vehicles receiving Customer Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between January 3, 2013 and January 31, 2013. Others are valid between January 3, 2013 and January 31, 2013, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.